

### REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 20, 2007.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are amended, no claims are canceled, and claims 10-14 are added; as a result, claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Applicant submits that claims 10-14 are fully supported by the originally-filed specification and contain no new matter.

### §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Acres (U.S. 6,319,125). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

### Concerning claims 1 and 9

In particular, Applicant cannot find in the cited portions of Acres any disclosure or description of “receiving a primary event message in a routing queue of the central server from one of the plurality of gaming terminals,” as presently recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 9. Instead, the cited portions of Acres describe a Machine Communication Interface (MCI), which is apparently a component of a gaming device. As stated in Acres:

In the described embodiment of the present invention, each gaming device 300 (also referred to as an electronic gaming machine or “EGM”) includes a machine communication interface (MCI) 356 which is interfaced to several peripheral components as shown in FIG. 7.

(Acres at col. 20, lines 14-18). In contrast, Applicant’s claims are directed to “receiving a primary event message in a routing queue of *the central server* from one of the plurality of gaming terminals.” (Claim 1).

Furthermore, Applicant cannot find in the cited portions of Acres any disclosure or description of “the association data structure implemented using a relational database” as presently recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 9. The Office Action relies on Figure

24 and the described Message Engine in its rejection of Applicant's association data structure. However, two deficiencies arise:

First, the Message Engine is not a data structure, much less an "association data structure" as claimed by the Applicant. Instead, apparently the Message Engine is a software module (*see* Acres at col. 50, line 39 et seq.) Acres states that "[i]n the example shown in FIG. 24, the architecture includes numerous, somewhat independent modules and a central message engine 156 which implements all of the 'intelligence' of the interactions between modules." (Acres at col. 50, lines 49-52). It appears that the message engine is implemented control logic. In fact, Acres states that "[t]he message engine is preferably implemented in the 'C' programming language as a 'switch()' statement." (Acres at col. 52, lines 31-32). Clearly, a switch() statement is a control logic statement, not an association data structure, as recited in claims 1 and 9. Moreover, the Message Engine is clearly not an "association data structure implemented using a relational database," as presently recited in these claims. Applicant has reviewed Acres and cannot find any description of a relational database, much less one being used when implementing an association data structure.

Second, apparently the Message Engine is a component of the MCI, which is a component of a wagering game. As such, the Message Engine could not logically "identify[] a first application queue associated with a first application configured to process the primary event message using an association data structure, the association data structure implemented using a relational database and storing an association of the primary event message to at least the first application queue," as required in claim 1 and similarly required in claim 9.

Thus, because Acres does not disclose or describe all elements of claims 1 and 9, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102(b) basis of the rejection.

Concerning claims 3 and 5

Applicant cannot find in the cited portions of Acres any disclosure or description of "generating a secondary event message from the processing of the primary event message," as presently recited in claim 3 and similarly recited in claim 5. The Office Action relies on FIG. 36 and states:

Acres discloses generating a secondary event message from the processing of the primary event message (Fig. 36 whereby a “No” response to “Message for this bonus server?” generates a second message back to the RPM for re-routing)...

Office Action of September 20, 2007 at p. 4. However, a closer reading of the cited portions of Acres reveals s that Acres apparently describes a message receiving operation, but no message generation operation, such as recited in Applicant’s claim. In particular, Acres clearly states:

If the message is addressed to the particular bonus server 370 (block 393), the message is routed to the appropriate event manager (CSM 380, BCM 378 or MCM 376) (block 394). Otherwise, the message is ignored.

Acres at col. 32, lines 1-5 (emphasis added). Similarly, the cited figure, FIG. 36, clearly indicates this type of operation, such that when the answer to the query of “Message for this bonus server?” (decision block 393) is in the negative, then the control apparently returns to the control flow above block 392 to continue processing in a loop – no other action is disclosed.

Thus, because Acres does not disclose or describe all elements of claims 3 and 5, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102(b) basis of the rejection.

#### Concerning claim 7

Applicant cannot find in the cited portions of Acres any disclosure or description of “identifying, using the second event message, the gaming terminal that generated the primary event message,” as presently recited in claim 7. Thus, because Acres does not disclose or describe all elements of claim 7, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102(b) basis of the rejection.

#### Concerning claim 8

As discussed above, the MCI is not on a central server, and as such, cannot serve to perform the functions of the central server as claimed in claim 8. Thus, because Acres does not disclose or describe all elements of claim 8, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C § 102(b) basis of the rejection.

Concerning remaining dependent claims 2, 4, and 6

Dependent claims 2, 4, and 6 depend from independent claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and accordingly incorporate the features of this independent claim. These dependent claims are accordingly believed to be patentable for at least the reasons stated herein regarding claim 1. For brevity, Applicant defers (but reserves the right to present) further remarks, such as concerning any dependent claims, which are believed separately patentable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection for these claims.

Concerning new claims 10-14

Support for claims 10-14 can be found in the originally-filed specification. For example, support for claim 10 can be found at page 14, line 16 to page 15, line 2, in addition to FIG. 7. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 10-14 do not introduce any new matter. Claims 10 – 14 recite elements such as a central server and an association data implemented using a relational database, which as discussed above are not found in the cited references. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable over the current references and request notification of the same.

**Reservation of Rights**

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action; however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

**CONCLUSION**

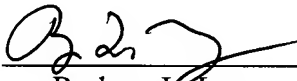
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at 612-373-6954 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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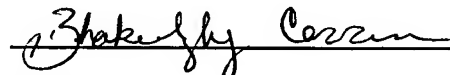
Date February 20, 2008

By   
Rodney L. Lacy  
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 20 day of February 2008.

Zhakalazky M. Carrion

Name

  
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